

Notice of Decision
Grazing Permit Renewals
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Baker Resource Area
3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814

Notice is hereby given that on August 28, 2001, Penelope Dunn Woods, Baker Resource Area Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, issued a decision to authorize the renewal of six (6) grazing permits within Baker County, Oregon. This decision authorizes the renewal of these grazing permits for a 10-year period. New or additional mitigation requirements to authorize livestock grazing under each permit have been identified and will be incorporated into the terms and condition section of each grazing permit. Implementation of this action(s) may start as soon as the appeal/protest period is completed.

This decision is consistent with the BLM's 1989 Baker Resource Management Plan, the Standards For Rangeland Health (August, 1997) and is in accordance with 43CFR 4130.2. The grazing allotments associated with these permits are located within Townships 7 through 13, South, Range 40 through 44 East, of the Baker Resource Area and vary in size from 21 acres to 11,402 acres. A copy of the Decision Record may be obtained by writing to the Baker Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 3165 10th Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814 or by calling (541) 523-1438.

For a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Baker City Herald, this decision shall be subject to protest and/or appeal (43 CFR Part 4). Interested parties may protest this decision by providing written comment or objections to the Baker Resource Area Field Manager, at the above Baker City address. Protests/appeals must be filed within the 30 day time period to be considered.

Dated:__August 28, 2001__**Baker Resource Area Field Manager:**_ /s/ Penelope Dunn Woods_

Environmental Assessment for
Grazing Lease #366122
Ivan Langley
EA #OR-035-01-14

**Bureau of Land Management
Vale District
Baker Resource Area**

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Environmental Assessment For Ivan Langley Permit # 366122

Introduction

This environmental assessment addresses lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District. The lands are located within three different allotments, approximately 20 miles south of Baker City, Oregon (see map). These three allotments are leased in part, to Ivan Langley.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to respond to an application to re-issue a ten-year grazing permit to Ivan Langley.

The proposed action includes:

- ! Changes to the terms and conditions of the grazing permit where needed.
- ! Establishes grazing utilization standards necessary to meet (or start moving in that direction) the rangeland standard and guides.
- ! Continues or establishes a grazing season and active grazing preference for each grazing allotment under the Ivan Langley grazing permit.
- ! Continues certain management practices (such as salting) necessary to improve grazing distribution and minimize natural resource impacts.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this EA is to re-issue a 10-year grazing permit to Ivan Langley grazing permit. The proposed action is needed to authorize continued grazing use per direction contained in the Baker Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (1989) and pursuant to 43CFR 4130.2. This permit authorizes Ivan Langley to graze on three different allotments within the resource area. The allotments are identified in the table below.

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Season of Use	Active Preference (AUMs)	Category*	Total BLM Acres
East Table Mtn	#1015	5/1-10/30	259	I	1240
Powell Creek	#1062	4/1-4/30	38	C	375
Morgan Mtn	#1068	4/27-6/22 10/1-11/23	90	I	5117

*Category refers to: "I" = Improvement; "M" = Maintain; "C" = Custodial

Background

The Ivan Langley grazing permit, which authorizes livestock grazing within three cattle allotments administered by the BLM, was “renewed” under the authority pursuant to the provisions of section 123 of public law 106-113 (enacted on November 29, 1999) . The renewal action authorized Ivan Langley to graze permitted livestock on BLM administered lands until their permit could be “renewed” through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This grazing permit is subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for a period of up to ten years. The BLM has authority to renew livestock grazing permits consistent with the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act, Public Rangeland Improvement Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the Baker Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (subsequently amended by the Oregon/Washington Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health).

Description of Alternatives

Two alternatives are analyzed in this EA: Alternative 1) No Action-No grazing (no reissuance of permit). Alternative 2) Continue Present Grazing with modifications as needed to adhere to Rangeland Health Standards & Guides Assessment. Management goals consistent with multiple use objectives of livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and watershed needs, as outlined by the Baker Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROD) 1989, and grazing strategies consistent with attaining the Fundamentals for Rangeland Health and the Standards for Rangeland Health (Appendix 1) are incorporated into grazing plans in Alternative 2. Terms and Conditions of this permit state: “This permit is subject to modifications as necessary to achieve compliance with the Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management (43 CFR 4180)”.

Alternative 1 - No Action

Under this alternative, Ivan Langley’s permit would not be reissued.

Alternative 2 - Proposed Action- Continue Current Grazing Plan

The proposed action is to issue grazing permit #366122 to Ivan Langley totaling 746 AUMs on approximately 6,732 BLM managed acres on three different allotments. Under this alternative, management of these allotments will change based on the mitigation items identified in the mitigation section of this assessment. These mitigation items are being implemented in order to comply with Rangeland Standards & Guides.

#1015 East Table Mountain

This allotment is managed as an “I” allotment and is managed as a two-pasture deferred rotation, grazed from 4/16 to 11/30. Under this alternative, management changes would take place as needed to maintain rangeland health or at such time Rangeland Health Standards & Guides Assessment warrant needed changes. This allotment is scheduled for assessment in 2007.

#1062 Powell Creek

This allotment is managed as a “C” allotment and is grazed in conjunction with private land from 4/1 to 11/30 with a total of 39 AUMs. Under this alternative, management changes would take place as needed to maintain rangeland health or at such time Rangeland Health Standards & Guides Assessment warrant needed changes. This allotment is scheduled for assessment in 2007.

#1068 Morgan Mountain

The Morgan Mountain allotment is managed as an “T” allotment with a Spring/Fall four pasture rotation. Two other permittees share this allotment with Mr. Langley. This permit allows the permittee to graze this allotment in the spring from 4/27 to 6/22 and in the fall from 10/01 to 11/23 to total 50 AUMs. Off date is dependent on weather and resource conditions. Under this alternative, management changes would take place as needed to maintain rangeland health or at such time Rangeland Health Standards & Guides Assessment warrant needed changes. It is scheduled for assessment in 2007.

Description of Affected Environment and Environmental Impacts

Rangeland Soils

One general soil type dominates the three allotments. In general soils are classified as well drained, shallow and moderately deep to deep soils. They range from loam to channery loams. These soils are classified for livestock grazing (with slope being the main limitation), while providing for wildlife habitat.

Impacts to Rangeland Soils

Alternative 1 - Under this alternative any impacts to rangeland soils from livestock grazing would be eliminated.

Alternative 2 - Continuation of the grazing systems in place within the above allotments is not expected to change the nature of rangeland soils. Impacts to soils occurs mainly around water developments and within riparian areas and can be detrimental to soils causing compaction, and/or soil erosion. However adhering to utilization standards and moving livestock within a timely manner will minimize these impacts. Future Standards & Guides assessment will address needed changes to livestock management if the standard for soils/uplands is not met.

Water Resources

#1015 East Table Mountain

Water resources on this allotment includes several intermittent tributaries to the Burnt River. Much of the BLM lands are uplands. Data on Water Resources is lacking at this time but will be completed at the time Rangeland Health Standards and Guides are assessed.

#1062 Powell Creek

There are approximately .75 miles of perennial streams within the BLM land in this allotment. Data on intermittent streams is lacking but will be completed at the time Rangeland Health Standards and Guides are assessed.

#1068 Morgan Mountain

There are approximately 1.85 miles of perennial streams in this allotment. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment was completed and the results are as follows:

Heiney Creek - non-functional (NF)

Deafy Creek - functioning at risk with a non-apparant trend (FARN)

Morgan Creek - functioning at risk with an upward trend (FARU)

The Heiney, Deafy and Morgan Creeks are tributaries to the Snake River which contains listed fish species. Other drainages are tributaries to the Burnt River. Both of these rivers are on the 303d list (Snake River for toxins and temperature, Burnt River for temperature and flow modification. Downcutting and active head cutting were major contributors to the non-functioning and at risk calls.

Impacts to Water Resources

Alternative 1 - Under this alternative water resources are expected to gradually improve. The no grazing alternative would alleviate any water resource concerns from livestock grazing.

Alternative 2 -Continuation of grazing in these allotments will also allow water resources to gradually improve over time however, could have negative effects to water resources if livestock are not moved in a timely manner. Management systems allow for movement of livestock when utilization standards are met. Future Standards & Guides assessment will further intensify or change management if needed to improve water resource conditions.

Riparian Resources:

Potential riparian vegetation in this watershed includes willow, cottonwood, hawthorne, elderberry, mock orange and chokecherry overstory, with grasses such as sedge species, Kentucky bluegrass, bulbous bluegrass, blue wildrye, basin wildrye, and streambank wheatgrass.

#1015 East Table Mountain

Riparian habitat on this allotment is limited to a few intermittent drainages. Detailed information is lacking at this time however will be completed at the time Rangeland Health Standards and Guides are assessed.

#1062 Powell Creek

Information about riparian habitat in this allotment is limited. Most of the BLM managed lands are uplands with approximately .75 mile of intermittent streams. Standards and Guides assessment when completed will provide necessary information to assess riparian condition.

#1068 Morgan Mountain

Perennial streams within the allotment that were assessed for PFC include Heiney Cr., Deafy Cr., and Morgan Cr. which were assessed as non-functioning, FARN and FARU respectively. Riparian habitat is lacking adequate residual vegetation and structural diversity for site potential on some sites. The riparian habitat in these three drainages is generally in early seral condition with respect to vegetation structure, species diversity, and recruitment. Noxious weed invasion is a concern within this allotment. More information is needed regarding riparian habitat. Standards and Guides Assessment when completed will provide necessary information to further assess riparian conditions.

Impacts to Riparian Resources

Alternative 1 - Riparian resources may improve more rapidly under this alternative.

Alternative 2 - Continuation of grazing in these allotments could inhibit recovery on degraded riparian resources if livestock are not moved in a timely manner. Management systems allow for movement of livestock when utilization standards are met. Future Standards & Guides assessment will further intensify or modify management as needed to improve riparian resource conditions.

Vegetation/Plant Communities

#1015 East Table Mountain and #1062 Powell Creek

Upland range plant communities for this allotment consists mostly of bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue intermixed with annual grasses. Information regarding the condition of these rangelands and riparian habitat is lacking. Standards and Guides assessment will provide necessary information to correctly assess these rangelands. Potential Natural Communities for these areas can be described as Wyoming big sage/Idaho fescue/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass, and Wyoming big sage/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass for #1015. For #1062 natural communities include the above in addition to threetip sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass associations.

#1068 Morgan Mountain

Rangeland plant communities in these allotments consist of Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass, Wyoming big sage/Idaho fescue/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass, and threetip sage/bluebunch wheatgrass/Sandbergs bluegrass with cheatgrass intermixed, and also some seeded areas of crested wheatgrass. Many of these upland communities are in mid to late seral stage in good condition with some of the lower slopes and benches dominated by cheatgrass ranging from early to mid seral stage and from poor to fair condition. Some areas within this allotment has sites infested with scotch thistle and whitetop. These weed species are being treated as funds and time allow. Several small patches of black henbane have been treated for several years and are almost eradicated from the area. Future assessments from Standards & Guides will provide further information about range condition of these plant communities.

Impacts to Vegetation/Plant Communities

Alternative 1- There would be no impacts to vegetation from livestock grazing under this alternative.

Alternative 2 - Continuation of grazing in these allotments could impair reestablishment of perennials on those sites dominated by annuals, but is not expected to adversely impact perennial bunchgrass plant communities. Future Standards & Guides assessment will further intensify or modify management as needed to improve upland resource conditions if deemed necessary.

Special Status Plants

Portions of Allotment #1015 East Table Mountain, #1062 Powell Creek and #1068 Morgan Mountain are known to contain populations of a BLM "Sensitive" species, *Pyrrocoma radiata*, which is also listed as "endangered" in the state of Oregon, and was a former category 1 candidate species for federal listing. The species occurs in scattered patches on all aspects, and on all topographic positions from ridgetop to draw bottoms.

Surveys for other special status plant species have not been completed. Perennial and intermittent streams may provide habitat for several BLM special status species which are generally restricted to riparian habitats.

Impacts to Special Status Plants

Alternative 1 - There would be no impacts to special status plants from livestock grazing under this alternative.

Alternative 2 - Data for impacts of grazing on *Pyrrocoma radiata* populations are inconclusive. Grazing during dry conditions in summer increases utilization on this species and reduces flower and seed production. Portions of occupied habitat in swales and on gentle topography within these allotments are slightly to moderately degraded, tending to be infested with cheatgrass. Steeper uplands and slopes more than 100 feet above canyon floors are often in good to excellent condition. Overall, monitoring studies show upward trends in dry rangeland habitats on Morgan Mountain allotment, indicating that present management and grazing systems should enable the species to persist over the long-term.

Riparian habitats identified as being in poor condition will experience slower recovery time unless utilization standards and compliance with terms and conditions of the grazing permit allow general habitat recovery.

Cultural Plant Habitat

These allotments are located within the traditional use area of the Paiute, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cause tribes. Habitat for riparian berry-producing plants occurs along stream bottoms and for dry land native root plants on rocky ridges in the Burnt River watershed.

Impacts to Cultural Plant Habitat

Alternative 1 - There would be no impacts to plants of cultural importance from grazing under this alternative.

Alternative 2 - Rotation of cattle and riparian fencing lessens impacts on native food plants although grazing may remove distinctive root plant foliage. This area is not a regular known plant gathering site, so impacts on opportunities for harvesting native food plants are expected to be minimal under this alternative.

Wildlife Habitat

The area within the boundaries of Grazing Permit #366122 contain many wildlife species including; deer, elk, chukar, Hungarian partridge, and many other species of small mammals and birds. The allotments within the Grazing Permit are located in critical deer winter range.

The streams in the area have been identified as habitat for many species of neotropical migratory birds including the yellow-billed cuckoo, a Bureau Sensitive Species. Management guidelines

for Bureau Sensitive species (BLM Manual 6840) dictate that actions on federal lands do not contribute to the need to list wildlife species on the Endangered Species List.

Impacts to Wildlife Habitat

Alternative 1- There would be no impacts to wildlife habitat under this alternative.

Immediate impacts associated with eliminating grazing on public lands would be the increase in winter forage for mule deer in the area. Because of the lack of competition for winter forage, the health of the deer population in the area would increase. Eliminating grazing on public land would potentially concentrate grazing on private lands. Therefore, deer would concentrate use on public lands where higher quality and quantity of winter forage would occur.

Impacts to riparian obligate species, like the yellow-billed cuckoo, would be the increased improvement of riparian habitat and the potential increase in use of these areas by neotropical migratory birds and increase in the health of these wildlife populations.

Alternative 2 - Impacts to deer in the area associated with continuing the current grazing management practices would maintain the current situation. Deer would continue to compete for winter forage. Winter forage in the area would be maintained at its current level, with a high potential for decreasing. The status of the deer population in the area would not change unless restrictions to grazing did occur with further analysis from Rangeland Health Standards and Guides. Utilization standards should be monitored closely to maintain important winter forage for wintering mule deer and management activities within the allotment should continue to minimize impacts on winter forage.

Riparian utilization standards should be monitored closely to prohibit the decline of riparian habitat for special status species like the yellow-billed cuckoo and other riparian obligate wildlife species.

Fisheries

Burnt River Watershed

Powell Creek and Jordan Creek are presumed to be fish bearing tributary streams that flow into the Burnt River. Historically, the Burnt River system supported native runs of steelhead and chinook salmon. Construction of the dams on the Burnt River and Snake River currently prevents any passage of anadromous fish. Bull trout, historically were present in the headwaters of most forested stream systems in Northeast Oregon, but are probably extinct in the Burnt River system (Ratliff and Howell 1992).

For many years the Burnt River has been stocked with rainbow trout, especially directly below and in Unity Reservoir. Redband trout, however, is the principal native fish that exists in the Burnt River and its tributaries, especially since the tributaries have never been stocked with fish. Redband trout is listed as “sensitive” by the BLM

Presence and absence surveys have not been completed for Jordan Creek or Powell Creek by ODFW. ODFW completed fish presence and absence surveys in 1990 on many of the reaches in the upper tributaries of the Burnt River. The survey indicates a very low number of redband trout at each surveyed area, with usually only one age class represented. Most fish were under 6 inches in length. Brook trout, sculpins and dace were also present in many of the streams. Loss of quality fish habitat and poor water quality limit the ability for fish to survive and reproduce.

A temperature study was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR, March 1999) that contains stream temperature information for the Burnt River and Powell Creek.

Continuous stream temperature monitoring was completed by the BOR in 1998 for the Burnt River. The stream temperature was recorded at several different places but the closest monitoring station was near the cement plant near Durkee, just upstream of the Jordan Creek confluence. The stream temperatures recorded for the highest 7 day max/average was 81.0 degrees F. on July 22, 1998. The Burnt River was over the 64 degree F. standard from June 13, 1998 to September 21, 1998. The Burnt River is on the DEQ 303-D list for stream temperatures and flow modification.

Stream temperatures were measured by the BOR in 1998 in Powell Creek, once a day, periodically throughout the summer months. The highest stream temperature measured for Powell Creek was 64 degrees F. on August 4, 1998. The flow was near 2 cfs.

Snake River Watershed

Historically the Snake River supported large runs of salmon and steelhead. Construction of the dams on the Snake River has eliminated the wild runs of anadromous fish. The upper dam Brownlee, was constructed in 1959, Oxbow in 1961 and Hells Canyon in 1968. This eliminated all natural runs of fish into the Powder River, the Burnt River and Pine Creek (Gildemeister 1992).

Heiney, Deafy Creeks are tributaries to Morgan Creek, which flows into the Snake River, into the Brownlee Pool. Heiney and Deafy are perennial streams that contribute flow to Morgan Creek, a native fish bearing stream. Heiney and Deafy may have some minor fish migration at their confluences with Morgan Creek, but good fish habitat is not available in the streams. Morgan Creek does support fish for several miles upstream until there is blockage due to gradient and loss of pool habitat.

During the Lookout Analysis for Forest Health these streams were surveyed for stream condition using the Proper Functioning Condition protocol. Morgan Creek was PFC (Proper Functioning Condition) in the upper headwaters and the lower section above and below the road were identified as FAR (Functional at Risk). Deafy and Heiney Creeks were also identified as FAR. The trends ranged from "not apparent" in Deafy, Heiney was "downward", to "upward" and "downward" in Morgan Creek. The Lookout Analysis proposes restoration in Morgan Creek for approximately 2.7 miles, which includes: LWD placement, hardwood planting and seeding.

Morgan Creek was monitored for stream temperature and water quality in 1999. The 7 day max/average stream temperature was 75.1 degrees F. Dissolved oxygen was low (6.8), sulfate

was over the test limit of 80 mg/l, and phosphorous was over the standard of 0.10 mg/l, with over 2.75 mg/l (over test limit).

Several years ago hardwoods were planted and stream structures were built in Morgan Creek. In this area the creek is in an upward trend. Stream habitat including pools, shading and bank stability has been restored to this area. There are two exclosures on Morgan Creek and one on Heiney Creek that has promoted restoration of the stream and riparian habitat. The exclosures show potential for improvement in other areas of the creeks.

Impacts to Fisheries

All riparian areas adjacent to fish bearing streams and all riparian areas/wetlands should be managed for the desired native plant communities that best support riparian health, stream stability and the best water quality and quantity.

Alternative 1 - This alternative would eliminate any impacts to fish habitat and the riparian areas from livestock grazing.

Alternative 2 - This alternative will reissue the grazing permit for 746 AUMS from April 16 through November 30. There are suggested changes to the current lease that will include adhering to the utilization standards and moving livestock in a timely manner to minimize impacts to springs and riparian areas. It is important that there is improvement in the fish habitat and riparian areas in this allotment through range management. It will be important to maintain the 45% use on herbaceous plant species and 30% browse on shrubs to see an improvement of the riparian vegetation.

Cultural Resources/Native American Values

Most of the East Table Mountain and Morgan Mountain allotments have not been intensively surveyed for cultural resources. Approximately twenty-five percent of the Powell Creek allotment has been surveyed. Proposed ground disturbing range projects are inventoried and typically designed to avoid potential impacts to cultural resources. The route of the Oregon Trail crosses through the Powell Creek allotment; and the Chimney Creek parcel is a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern for the Oregon Trail and its setting. Two lithic scatters and a historic dump are located in the allotments.

Impacts on Cultural/Native American Values

Alternative 1 - (No Grazing): This alternative would avoid impacts of livestock grazing on any archaeological materials in the area

Alternative 2 - Riparian fences and rotation of cattle reduce trampling of streambanks, which avoids disturbance to areas having more likelihood for cultural occurrence. Although dispersed livestock grazing generally has little observable effect on cultural resources, livestock congregation may trample surface sites, especially near older spring developments which are not well maintained or properly functioning. Depending upon the season of use for a particular

pasture, stock may congregate at or near sites proximate to water sources for short periods of time during the grazing rotation. Known sites would be monitored for such impacts. High probability riparian areas and older spring developments (for example those installed in the early 1970s) would be examined for cultural resources and proper functioning as part of the review for standards and guidelines for rangeland health. If disturbance to important sites is observed, the location would be removed from grazing or protected by exclosure fencing, salting, riding or other corrective measures such as ensuring that older range developments are properly located and maintained to achieve cultural resource objectives. Recent monitoring at Chimney Creek found no impacts to the Oregon Trail from livestock grazing. The permit would stipulate that no road improvements or maintenance within the Powell Creek allotment or ACEC will be allowed without prior written BLM authorization.

Recreation

There are no developed recreation sites within any of these allotments. Dispersed recreational use occurs within these allotments, with the primary recreational use being upland hunting of birds, elk and deer, fishing in streams and ATV use. These activities generally take place without conflict with grazing.

Impacts on Recreation

Alternative 1 - Under this alternative recreationists would not see cattle grazing.

Alternative 2 - The issuance of this permit is not expected to impact any of the recreational uses of the area. Conflicts between grazing and recreational use can occur with open gates or within dispersed campsites.

Socioeconomics

Mr. Langley relies upon this BLM permit to keep his livestock business a viable operation. The leased lands are grazed and managed in conjunction with private lands.

Impacts on Socioeconomics

Alternative 1 - Eliminating cattle from the allotment would affect the economic viability of the livestock operation because of cumulative costs associated with the permittee having to secure additional range or buy supplemental feed to accommodate herd sizes they once grazed on the above allotments. Other factors include fencing and establishing water on additional range, increased trucking costs, and labor costs associated with moving livestock. This may cause permittees to seek other private pasture or grazing lands at a considerably higher rate or may have to reduce livestock numbers therefore reducing income from their livestock operations. This may affect the livelihoods and success of family ranch operations forcing landowners to work off ranches or possibly sell portions of their land. Changes in jobs and personal income would result in changes in the economic activity of the communities where the permittee base operations, hire employees, and buy equipment, supplies and services.

Alternative 2 - The proposed action will enable the permittee to continue his operation without adverse effects that may be caused by elimination of grazing.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts of the proposed action, when considered within the larger region, or across a longer time period may occur. The most pronounced impacts would be related to continued removal of a portion of the annual palatable plant production. This may impact the numbers of wildlife species that can survive in the region which rely on the forage, seeds, or cover that the palatable plants provide. A second impact may be to the frequency and size of fires that occurs in the region. Continued removal of the fine fuels could reduce the fire size and frequency, and promote the dominance by woody species, which may be detrimental to the herbaceous species and wildlife species that are associated with their presence however could enhance habitat for woody dependent wildlife species. Managed grazing that allows rest during some periods throughout the grazing season, and provides for good livestock distribution limits adverse cumulative impacts from grazing to vegetation, soils, water quality, and riparian habitat.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring would be done each year according to the Oregon/Washington Monitoring Plan to ensure compliance with the grazing management plans. This monitoring is essential to evaluate the condition of resource values in the case of needed changes in the grazing management.

A Rangeland Health assessment addressing the five Rangeland Standards will be conducted in a separate document. Other evaluations of the allotment use and resource values would be conducted, as needed, after reviewing the monitoring data.

Mitigation

Salt blocks will be placed on upper extent of benches, as far away as is practical from streams or water developments to allow for better livestock distribution during the grazing season.

No more than 45% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian grass and forb species.

No more than 30% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian shrub species.

Utilization shall not exceed an average of 50% use on the palatable upland species.

Two growing seasons rest will be required for areas that receive vegetation treatments or wildland fire events.

The BLM range conservationist will work with the Permittee to find opportunities to allow portions of the allotment to receive occasional rest in order to increase plant vigor and/or to allow fine fuels to accumulate to help natural burns to perpetuate the desired landscape mosaic.

If human remains or historic, archaeological, or paleontological materials are found in the course of any allotment activities, the operator shall refrain from further activities that might impact the materials and contact the BLM.

The permit would stipulate that no road improvements or maintenance within the Powell Creek allotment or ACEC will be allowed without prior written BLM authorization.

Contact the BLM prior to any rangeland maintenance activity which would require soil surface disturbing activities.

Grazing will be done in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds, or significant degradation of the native plant community. Use of chemical or biological methods of control for noxious weed treatment is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the Authorized Officer and an approved Pesticide/Biological Use Proposal is submitted.

Submission of actual use reports are required within 15 days after the end of the grazing season.

Grazing management changes will take place as needed to comply with Rangeland Health Standards and Guides Assessment.

Other Resource Elements Analyzed

Environmental Justice: No disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations are expected to result from implementation of any of the alternatives addressed in this EA.

The following resources were all considered in preparation of the EA and are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed action or alternative:

<u>CRITICAL ELEMENTS</u>	<u>AFFECTED</u>	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
ACEC/WILDERNESS		X
CULT.RES.&NAT.REG.HIST.PLACES		X
FARMLANDS, PRIME/UNIQUE		X
NAT.AMER.REL.CONCERNS		X
WASTES, HAZARDOUS/SOLID		X
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS		X

Consultation and Coordination

Ivan Langley
Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Nez Perce Tribe

Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this document.

Name	Title
Rubel Vigil	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Greg Miller	Wildlife Biologist
Clair Button	Botanist
Mary Oman	Archeologist
Kevin McCoy	Recreation/Wilderness Specialist

Mike Woods	Fire/Weeds Specialist
Teresa Smergut	Rangeland Management Specialist
Jackie Dougan	Fisheries Biologist
Todd Kuck	Hydrologist

APPENDIX

Redband Trout Life History Characteristics

The entire group of redband/rainbow trout have been recently classified into the rainbow grouping Oncorhynchus mykiss gibbsi. Redband/rainbow trout is the interior (inland) rainbow trout which can be differentiated from the coastal rainbow both electrophoretically and by meristic character differences such as the very fine scales and extra row of teeth on the tongue. The redband/rainbow's coloration is highly variable, most often there is a brick red coloring around the lateral line and dark colored parr marks (spots). The rainbow trout has a rainbow color around the lateral line and light colored parr marks. Spawning behavior appears to be most similar to that of rainbow and golden trout. All are spring spawners and require gravel riffles in which the female excavates a redd. Redband/rainbow trout have been listed as a sensitive species because their populations have diminished from historical levels.

Redband/rainbow are similar to brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis) in that both are assumed to require relatively the same food, space, cover, and individual territories that are afforded by the riffles and small pools of headwater streams (Bacon et al. 1980). The redband/rainbow appears to tolerate higher siltation conditions and select lower water velocity situations than typical for most trout.

The redband/rainbow trout appear to be more tolerant of high water temperatures than other salmonids. Some redband/rainbow populations in the desert basins of southeast Oregon have adapted to very high water temperatures through a survival mechanism and are known to inhabit intermittent, stagnant streams with temperatures as high as 83 degrees F. (Behnke 1979).

They once inhabited the entire upper Columbia River system, areas of British Columbia and Northern California (Lusch 1985). Behnke (1979) suggests that the redband/rainbow trout was originally native throughout the interior reaches of the Columbia River basin except where blocked by major falls, to lakes existing in the present Oregon basins.

Introductions of hatchery rainbow trout and subsequent hybridization have largely eliminated pure redband trout populations in most of their original range (Bacon, Brouha, Rode, Staley 1980). Now the redband/rainbow is found only in isolated sections of their historical habitat.

Currens (1991) looked at the genetic variation within and among populations of redband/rainbow trout in the Burnt and Powder Rivers. The population from the Burnt River system showed consistent genetic characteristics of inland redband/rainbow trout of the Columbia and Snake River. There were local population differences among the two populations tested in the Burnt River. Currens (1991) concluded that the Burnt River populations are inland redband/rainbow trout.

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The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures result in a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION AND RATIONALE: It is my decision to select the Proposed Action alternative and approve the renewal of the grazing permit for the Ivan Langley permit for a term of 10 years. Allotments and Grazing information is found on the following table.

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Season of Use	Active Preference (AUMs)	Category*	Total BLM Acres
East Table Mtn	#1015	5/1-10/30	259	I	1240
Powell Creek	#1062	4/1-4/30	38	C	375
Morgan Mtn	#1068	4/27-6/22 10/1-11/23	90	I	5117

This decision is subject to the Terms and Conditions identified in the mitigation measures described below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Salt blocks will be placed on upper extent of benches, as far away as is practical from streams or water developments to allow for better livestock distribution during the grazing season.

No more than 45% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian grass and forb species.

No more that 30% use of current year's growth shall occur on riparian shrub species.

Utilization shall not exceed an average of 50% use on the palatable upland species.

Two growing seasons rest will be required for areas that receive vegetation treatments or wildland fire events.

The BLM range conservationist will work with the Permittee to find opportunities to allow portions of the allotment to receive occasional rest in order to increase plant vigor and/or to allow fine fuels to accumulate to help natural burns to perpetuate the desired landscape mosaic.

If human remains or historic, archaeological, or paleontological materials are found in the course of any allotment activities, the operator shall refrain from further activities that might impact the materials and contact the BLM.

Contact the BLM prior to any rangeland maintenance activity which would require soil surface disturbing activities.

Grazing will be done in a manner that does not encourage the establishment or spread of noxious weeds, or significant degradation of the native plant community. You are not authorized to use chemical nor biological methods of control unless you have received prior approval from the Authorized Officer and have an approved Pesticide/Biological Use Proposal.

Submission of actual use reports are required within 15 days after the end of the grazing season.

Grazing management changes will take place as needed to comply with Rangeland Health Standards and Guides Assessment.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: Compliance with the renewed grazing lease and its associated terms and conditions will be accomplished through the Baker Field Office Range Management Program. Use supervision checks by the range staff and other office personnel as appropriate will be used to assure compliance. The Baker Resource Area Monitoring Plan and the Oregon State Rangeland Monitoring Handbook will be used to schedule periodic utilization checks, collect trend data, and evaluate allotments. Evaluation of monitoring data would be used to make appropriate changes to the grazing lease as needed to promote rangeland health.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

DATE SIGNED:







